

Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 SP-02 L-03

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

AID-05 /086 W

----- 088933

O 111056Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6238

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL EXPORT LICENSE

REF: A. STATE 57036, B. BOMBAY 631

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER JUST RECEIVED FROM CHAIRMAN SETHNA OF IAEC RESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS POSED REF A. NUMBERS ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS LISTED IN REF B. BEGIN TEXT (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING OMITTED);

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF FINISHED BUNDLES 30 (THESE CAN BE USED FOR EITHER REACTOR)
CONTAINED KG U 4198

2. YES. INCLUDING THIS, WE HAVE 41,310 KGS OF EQUIVALENT ENRICHED URANIUM (AS ON FEBRUARY 29, 1976) IN PROCESS AT OUR NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLES. OF THIS, SOME 5,100 KGS ARE IN THE FORM OF RECYCLED MATERIAL FROM PREVIOUS FABRICATION PROCESSES, RECYCLING OF WHICH NEEDS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, E.G., COMMISSIONING OF THE FACILITY TO PROCESS GADOLINA BEARING MATERIAL. ALLOWING FOR A REASONABLE IN-PROCESS INVENTORY, WE HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL
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FOR THE REFUELLINGS OF JULY, 1976 AND WITH LUCK ALSO FOR JANUARY

1977. SINCE IT USUALLY TAKES APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR BETWEEN SHIPMENTS OF MATERIAL FROM US AND DELIVERY OF BUNDLES TO TARAPUR IN VIEW OF THE SMALL CAPACITY OF THE PLANT, ANY DELUM IN PRESENT SHIPMENTS WILL AFFECT SUBSEQUENT REFUELLINGS AND PROBABLY NECESSITATE OUTPUT REDUCTIONS ON ONE OR BOTH UNITS FROM LATER THIS YEAR.

3. UNIT I/UNIT II

(I) DATE INITIAL FUEL LOADING COMPLETED FEB 24,69/MARCH 2, 1969

FUEL BUNDLES LOADED 284 FUEL BUNDLES/284 FUEL
BUNDLES

ENERGY GENERATED UNTIL NEXT

REFUELLING OUTAGE 2311 MILLION KWH/2364
MILLION KWH

(II) FIRST REFUELLING AUG 1971 TO APR 72/
MAR 72 TO DEC

72

FUEL BUNDLES LOADED 52 FRESH BUNDLES/52 FRESH
BUNDLES

ENERGY GENERATED UNTIL NEXT

REFUELLING OUTAGE 730 MILLION KWH/1440
MILLION KWH

(III) SECOND REFUELLING JAN 73 TO MAY 73/FEB 74 TO
JUL 74

FUEL BUNDLES LOADED 103 FRESH PLUS
15 REINSERTS/70 FRESH PLUS

13 REPAIRED
REINSERTS

ENERGY GENERATED UNTIL NEXT 1578 MILLION KWH/1058
MILLION KWH

(IV) THIRD REFUELLING JAN 75 TO MAY 75/JULY 75
TO OCT 75

FUEL BUNDLES LOADED 98 FRESH 68 FRESH

ENERGY GENERATED UNTIL END FEB 76 1064 MILLION KWH/533
MILLION KWH

4. AS PER PRESENT SCHEDULE, UNIT II AT TARAPUR STATION WILL BE
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DUE FOR REFUELLING IN JULY/AUGUST 196 AND UNIT I IN JAN 1977.

5. THE URGENCY FOR RECEIVING ENRICHED UF6 FROM NRC STEMS FROM
THE FOLLOWING:

A) NON-RECEIPT OF THE DECEMBER SHIPMENT BY MARCH 1976 WILL ENTAIL
DISRUPTION OF PRODUCTION AT THE NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX AND IN RECY-
CLING OF SUBSTANDARD MATERIALS. OUR EXPECTATION OF MANAGING UNTIL
AUGUST 1976 BY SUCH EFFORTS WILL BE JEOPARDISED IF THE INTERVENING

MONSOON IS UNSATISFACTORY.

B) DEPENDING UPON WHEN THE SHIPMENT ACTUALLY ARRIVES AS WELL AS UPON OTHER MAJOR UNCERTAIN FACTORS SUCH AS MONSOON THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER OF LEAKERS WE ACTUALLY FIND DURING JULY 1976 REFUELLING OUTAGE, ETC THE REFUELLING OF 1977 MAY BE AFFECTED AND DELAYED. RATHER THAN RUN THE UNIT AT FULL POWER AND RUN OUT OF FUEL WELL BEFORE A RELOAD IS AVAILABLE, WHICH WOULD MEAN KEEPING THE UNIT COMPLETELY IDLE FOR A CORRESPONDING PERIOD, WE MAY PREFER TO OPERATE AT A LOWER OUTPUT RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CYCLE FOR UNIT-2 (AROUND SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1976) AND PERHAPS ALSO REDUCE THE OUTPUT OF UNIT-1 TO STRETCH ITS CURRENT CYCLE BY TWO TO THREE MONTHS. SUCH REDUCTIONS MAY BE AROUND 20-30 PER CENT OF RATED OUTPUT.

C) THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY SUCH REDUCTION IN THE PARTS OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT SERVED BY TARAPUR WILL BE VERY SERIOUS. CURRENTLY TARAPUR PROVIDES SOME 20 PER CENT OF THE INSTALLED CAPACITY OF GUJARAT WHICH IS EVEN NOW OBSERVING POWER CUTS RANGING FROM 5-20 PER CENT OF THE REQUIREMENT IN ADDITION TO UNSCHEDULED LOAD SHEDDING IN RURAL AREAS. THIS HAS AFFECTED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT IN THAT STATE TO THE EXTENT THAT ANY CURTAILMENT IN THE AVAILABILITY OF POWER IS FRONT PAGE NEWS AND A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN FOR THE STATE ASSEMBLY NOT TO MENTION THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, TRADE UNIONS AND OTHERS.

D) THE SITUATION IN MAHARASHTRA IS, IF ANYTHING, WORSE. THE STATE IS ALSO OBSERVING, DEMAND AND ENERGY CUTS, FOR INDUSTRIES UP TO 40 PER CENT OF REQUIREMENTS. DIFFERENT RESTRICTION FORMULAE ARE PRESCRIBED FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF INDUSTRIES. FOR INSTANCE AIR-CONDITIONERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING PEAK HOURS EVEN IN OFFICES DESIGNED ON THAT BASIS AND DISLOCATION IN RURAL SUPPLIES DUE TO SHORTAGES IS FREQUENT.

E) THE CIRCUMSTANCES BECOME EVEN MORE TRYING THE MOMENT THERE IS ANY UNSCHEDULED OUTAGE OF ANY OF THE GENERATING UNITS IN EITHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE. ON ONE RECENT OCCASION THE SYSTEM FREQUENCY FELL TO 49.1 CYCLES INSTEAD OF A NORMAL OF 50 CYCLES IN SPITE OF HEAVY LOAD SHEDDING.

F) UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ONE SHUDDERS TO THINK WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE NEXT MONSOON IS NOT SATISFACTORY AS THE SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE INSTALLED CAPACITIES IN BOTH THE STATES IS BASED ON HYDRO ELECTRIC ENERGY (SOME 38 PER CENT IN MAHARASHTRA AND 20 PER CENT IN GUJARAT).

THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN INDIFFERENT MONSOON WILL MANIFEST ITSELF AROUND OCTOBER 196 JUST WHEN TARAPUR MAY ALSO HAVE TO CURTAIL ITS SUPPLY TO THEM IF THE FUEL POSITION SO REQUIRES.

G) AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THE DEMAND FOR POWER IS LIKELY TO INCREASE FAR MORE THAN IT DID LAST YEAR. AS SUCH BOTH THE STATES WILL FIND IT VERY

DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH THIS CURTAILMENT OF SUPPLIES FROM TARAPUR
EVEN BY INCREASING VERY HEAVILY POWER CUTS AS WELL AS LOAD
SHEDDING WHICH IS ALREADY BEING RESORTED TO.

YOURS SINCERELY,
SIGNED H.N.SETHNA

END TEXT.
COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

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